

# *Celebrating a Finntastic Evening*

**19th Annual**

**Rotary Club of  
New Albany**

Community Toast and  
Benefit Banquet honoring

*Jerry Finn*

**November 2, 2012**



# *Evening's Program*

Jamey Aebersold Jazz Trio

## *Welcome*

Matt Oakley, Rotary Club of New Albany President 2012-2013

## *Invocation*

Joe Kraft, Family Friend and Co-owner Generations Monuments

## *Pledge*

Tyler Bliss, Executive Director of the New Albany-Floyd County Education Foundation and Master of Ceremonies

## *Dinner*

## *Opening*

Matt Oakley

Tyler Bliss

## *Toasters*

Katharine Finn, Daughter of Jill and Jerry Finn

Bob McCarty, Executive Director for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry

## *Presentation*

Ed Clere, Indiana State Representative

## *Toasters*

Willis K. Bright, Jr., Director of Youth Programs at the Lilly Endowment  
Eileen Moore, Regional President and General Manager of Horseshoe Casino and Hotel, Southern Indiana

## *Rotary International Presentation*

Joseph Hagedorn, District Governor, Rotary District 6580

## *Community Toast*

Gary Libs, 2011 Rotary Toast Honoree

## *Honoree's Response*

Jerry Finn

## *Closing*

Matt Oakley

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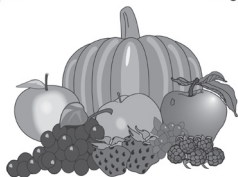
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YMCA Southern Indiana

# *Rotary International*

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,500 Rotary clubs located in 168 countries.

## *Rotary Club of New Albany*

Each year, the Rotary Club of New Albany receives numerous requests for donations from the community. Proceeds accumulated from our Rotary Community Toast and Benefit banquets have been distributed among the following organizations, projects and programs: Ronald McDonald House; "I Like Me" book distribution; Community Alliance to Promote Literacy; Boys & Girls Club of Kentuckiana; Children's Academy of New Albany; The Carnegie Center; Clean Up New Albany; New Life International; American Cancer Society; Angel Tree; Indiana University Southeast; Hoosier Boys State; Hoosier Girls State; Forrest McCaffrey Scholarship Fund; Floyd County Head Start; Rotary Youth Exchange; Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference; International Water Projects in Mexico and Uganda; Floyd County Scholarship Banquet; Rotary Scholarships; Interact Club at New Albany High School; YMCA; BridgePointe Services; New Albany Floyd County Public Library Foundation; Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council, Saint Mary of the Knobs' Parish, among others

Approximately fifty percent of the net proceeds from this evening will be used by the Rotary Club of New Albany to continue to address humanitarian projects both locally and internationally.

## *Rotary Club*



**The Rotary Club of New Albany**

Post Office Box 141  
New Albany, IN 47151-0141

For member information,  
go to [rcna.us](http://rcna.us)

# Jerry Finn

By Dale Moss

Give away dollars by the millions and people are going to like you. They even are going to honor you.



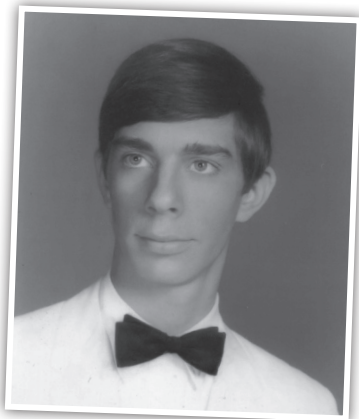
Jerome (Jerry) K. Finn is likable, for sure, honorable as well. It comes with his high-profile, high-impact job as Executive Director of the Horseshoe Foundation of Southern Indiana.

It comes too, though, by Finn picking up litter on his way to downtown meetings and, better still, by how Finn devotedly shepherds all those bucks he shucks. Finn's pockets may seem blue-sea deep but so is his commitment. Finn is most worthy of

tonight's toast from the Rotary Club of New Albany both because of what he accomplishes and because of how he accomplishes.

"He's a visionary leader, ahead of his time in our community," Ray Lucas, a banker and longtime Finn friend.

Finn is something as he first may come off, a Gomer Pyle-like lovable bumpkin. He also is something much more, of course. Finn shines for Horseshoe, and with all facets of life, by staying true to his fifth-generation Starlight roots yet being eager for new, daunting challenges. In his 60 years, Finn has switched careers and priorities but never has switched values. Finn wins applause tonight because he never loses his way. "He is such a grounded person," Judy Hess, of Horseshoe, said. "It goes way back."



"He's always a husband and a father and son and a good parishioner. He's always all of those things all the time."

The Horseshoe Foundation awards our area unprecedented sums, a total to date of nearly \$28 million. Yet Finn and the board cannot always say yes. Finn insists the board - not he - makes decisions, but he does so not to deflect the heat. Not that anyone should, or does, shortchange Finn's influence.



Finn is both staunch advocate and steadfast gatekeeper. "The good part about him, he wants to help everybody but protect the Foundation's interests," Mark Seabrook, a Floyd County commissioner and Foundation member, said.

A clue to Finn's decade-old Foundation responsibility might be in how it hurts him to turn down money requests. "I don't like to disappoint folks, so it is one of the hardest tasks for me to do," he said of what he describes, all in all, as one of the best jobs in the world.

How does one attain such a plum job? Finn figures it by the grace of God. If he is too busy to pinch himself, he feels blessed to be in such a special position to help. "I am pretty much just a farm boy from Starlight," Finn said. "I'm from a big family of nine children that worked hard."



"I hope people see the real me. I really try to be real."

Finn has an associate and bachelor's degree from Indiana University and master's from the St. Meinrad School of Theology. Before he was the Foundation's face, Finn was a consultant, adviser and trainer for groups that serve youth and the community. Before that, he coordinated key youth-ministry efforts within his Catholic faith and before that,



Finn was a registered nurse and worked in the emergency room at University of Louisville Hospital. A multi-talented man, a good relationship builder, that's how Joe LaRocca, CEO of the YMCA of Southern Indiana, describes Finn.

Finn was more than ready for the starring role he now plays, according to LaRocca. "He has always known a lot of people," LaRocca said.

"I love meeting and getting to know good people," Finn said. "I am blessed with a network of incredible folks. My life is so rich because of the people who have been on this journey with me."

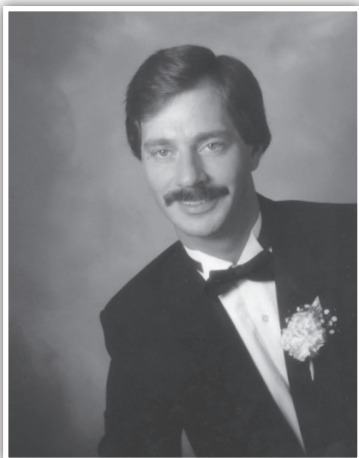
The Y in New Albany is a prime beneficiary of the mission of the Foundation, and of Finn, to boost our area. Finn's determination stretches, though, such as to 1998, when he sacrificed an entire year to rebuild the then-struggling Indiana Youth Institute. He traveled near and far, bringing leaders to the Institute's side. "I really felt it was something I could do... had to do, to make a difference," Finn said. "It was far too important (not to try)."

These days, Finn somehow finds time to help guide the Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana. Specifically, that group focuses on growing lifelong philanthropists; encouraging young people to give their time, talent and treasure for the common good. A recent endeavor that Finn was involved in the creation and writing is a family philanthropy gift box, which puts together activities for parents to teach their children the value and joys



of giving and of service. The creative effort has Finn's prints all over it. "It is second nature," Finn said of his contribution.

Finn sits on a range of boards and committee, none more visible than the Ohio River Bi-State Bridges Authority. Recruited by Indiana's governor, Finn was surprised to be asked but wedges the elite duty in to his hectic days. "I certainly did not need one more thing on my plate," Finn said. "But I thought I could bring to the table perspective. I guess I see myself as a common citizen - the everyday citizen."



The authority's work is both crucial and controversial, of course. Criticism comes with the territory. "I have always been willing to listen to constructive criticism," Finn said. "I think it makes me a better person."

Finn is now squarely a community leader, a person of considerable influence. Only his power is enhanced, however, not his ego. "He's the same person in a unique position," Lucas said.



Or as Hess put it, "With Jerry it's real simple: What you see is what you get. He's so genuine - no facade."

Finn thanks mentors, leans on his faith. Though often late, he returns nightly to his trusty Starlight, to a family home wonderfully adorned with photos of ancestors. Finn lives there

with wife Jill, a mother of four and a school counselor. "It's fun to see him squirm with the notoriety, the recognition," she said of her husband of 22 years. "He does stay humble."

Like Jill Finn, Lucas joins the Rotary in admiration of the care Jerry Finn takes for the common good. The list of Finn's honors grows, but only in step with Finn's devotion. "He just can't do it another way," Lucas said.

Along with his work with the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County, Jerry Finn is a national trainer, author, and consultant. He and his wife Jill Curry Finn live in his family's ancestral log home on their 1839 family farm in Starlight. Their children include: (USAF Major) TJ and Blair Sonne with granddaughters Emma and Caroline Sonne who live in Newtown, Pennsylvania, Chrissy and Dan Costello from Denver, Colorado, Katharine Finn and Jerome Nicholas Finn.

Finn served for twelve years in the Indiana Army National Guard as a medical corpsman/senior clinical specialist and the US Army Reserve Officer Nurse Corps, with a commission as Captain.

Finn is certified in Youth Ministry Studies and holds an advanced certificate in Ministry Development from Loyola University of Chicago. He has been a regular columnist for Top Music Countdown of Cornerstone Media, Inc. Published works include Building Youth Ministry in The Parish by St. Mary's Press, Morality and Decisions Leaders Guide, by Silver Burdett Ginn, and is a contributing author to the Family Philanthropy Gift Box by





the Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana, The Asset Builders Guide for Youth Leadership, by Search Institute and Youth As Philanthropists by CPY, Inc. along with articles in various national publications.

Finn serves as President of the New Albany-Floyd County Education Foundation, Vice-president

of Keep New Albany Clean and Green, board member for One Southern Indiana, and is a committee member with Develop New Albany. He is involved with the Regional Economic Coalition of Southern Indiana, the Grantmakers of Southeastern Indiana, the 21st Century Scholars collaboration and is a member of the Rotary Club of New Albany.

He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Youth Institute, Indiana Dollars for Scholars, and has been on the Governance Council of Youth Count and the Steering Committee of the Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana. Finn has also been involved with United Way as a member of several committees, the New Albany Riverfront Amphitheater task group, and the planning team of the Arts Council of Southern Indiana.

He enjoys cooking, great wines, collecting antiques, woodworking, and gardening.



# *The 2012 Charity Recipient*

The New Albany-Floyd County Education Foundation has given strong and steady support to the NA-FC public school system since 2005 by helping to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. In order to make good schools

great and provide innovative resources to teachers and administrators for the benefit of students, the foundation's mission and vision were shaped. From necessity sprang innovation, and we, along with several community partners, have risen to the occasion to make an impact in our schools.

## New Albany-Floyd County Education Foundation



As a champion for excellent educational tools and opportunities for our schools, the Foundation strives to direct resources to improve the education of students. However, this would not be possible without the incredible support, both financial and human, from our community partners. Last year alone the Education Foundation funneled \$413,000 from corporate sponsors, grants, and individual donors for the benefit of students in the NAFC School system. Projects funded to date include:

- Funding over \$160,000 in educational resources to date through the Great Classroom Project Initiative, a creative teaching resource opportunity for NAFCS educators
- Funding the International Baccalaureate programs at NAHS and FCHS
- Sending 1,800 5th and 8th grade students every year through Junior Achievement programs: Chase Financial Park and Sam Swope Biz Town
- Making other educational tours possible for thousands of students each year to the Scribner House, Culbertson Mansion, Ogle Center, and the Louisville Science Center through funds from the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County
- Providing over 3,000 children ages 0-5 FREE age appropriate books EVERY MONTH through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Providing Smart Board Technology in NAFC Classrooms, in particular, New Albany High School where there is now a Smart Board present in every operating classroom
- Providing funding for Full Day Kindergarten in Floyd County for three years until the school corporation was able to fully fund it.

The Education Foundation was started by a small group of community members who took a grass roots approach to finding additional funding for educational resources when a need presented itself. Jerry Finn is part of the reason the Education Foundation exists today. His leadership and service to the students and teachers of Floyd County has helped raise over \$2 million for our schools. We thank him deeply for his commitment to educational excellence.

# *Past Honorees and their Charitable Recipients*

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## **John Cody**

Saint Vincent DePaul School  
Interfaith Community Council

## **Sam Robinson**

Our Lady of Providence High School  
Junior Achievement of Kentuckiana

## **Joe Huber**

St. Elizabeth's Regional Maternity  
Center

## **Leon Rand**

Indiana University Southeast  
Scholarship Fund

## **Fuzzy Zoeller**

WHAS Crusade for Children

## **Joan Smith**

Noah's Ark, Inc.

## **Bob Shine**

Indiana University Southeast

## **Richard Stem**

Second Baptist Church Town Clock  
Tower

## **Bryant Hanson**

Floyd Memorial Foundation

## **Herb Naville**

Rauch, Inc., Assistive Technology  
Program

## **Sister Barbara Ann Zeller**

Guerin, Inc.

## **Jamey Aebersold**

Arts Council of Southern Indiana

## **Ray Day**

Our Lady of Providence, Jr/Sr High  
School

## **Robert E. Kleehamer**

YMCA of New Albany, Indiana

## **James W. Robinson**

Junior Achievement of Southern  
Indiana

## **Norman Melhiser**

Indiana University Southeast  
Endowment Fund

## **M. Diane Murphy**

End Polio Now, A Rotary  
International Campaign

## **Gary Libs**

Saint Mary of the Knobs Parish



## *Special Thanks To:*

1. Greg Nash, Ambassador Campaign Co-Chair
2. Dave Colter, Ambassador Campaign Co-Chair
3. Tyler Bliss, Ambassador Campaign, Master of Ceremonies
4. J. Robert Shine, Ambassador Campaign
5. Chad Dimmit, Ambassador Campaign
6. Gary Libs, Ambassador Campaign
7. Dale Moss, Jerry Finn Biography
8. Huber's Orchard and Winery and Staff
9. Greg and Jan Huber
10. Ted and Dana Huber
11. Debbie Adams
12. Marilyn Nash, L & D Mail Masters
13. Bruce Morris, Morris Photography
14. Ed Clere, Indiana State Representative
15. Joseph Hagedorn, Rotary Governor District 6580
16. Floyd Central High School Radio and Television Department
17. Jamey Aebersold Jazz, Inc.
18. Christine Harbeson, Publicity

## *Rotary Toast Committee*

1. Marsha Abel, Chair
2. Whitney Bishop
3. Tyler Bliss
4. Dave Colter
5. Chad Dimmit
6. Bettye Dunham
7. Greg Nash
8. John Newbanks
9. Matt Oakley
10. Peggy Peter
11. Roger Whaley



# Notes



# Notes

# *Jerry Finn*



**19th Annual  
Rotary Club of New Albany  
Community Toast and Benefit Banquet**

**Friday, November 2, 2012  
Huber's Plantation Hall**